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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2015-46

Abamectin

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has concluded that the change in formulation of Agri-Mek EC to Agri-Mek SC, containing abamectin, for use on the same crops is acceptable. The specific uses approved in Canada are detailed on the label of Agri-Mek SC, *Pest Control Products Act* Registration Number 31607.

The evaluation of this abamectin application indicated that the end-use product has value, and the human health and environmental risks associated with the new uses are acceptable.

Before registering a pesticide for food use in Canada, the PMRA must determine the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the food when the pesticide is used according to label directions and that such residues will not be a concern to human health. This quantity is then legally specified as a maximum residue limit (MRL). An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Consultation on the proposed MRL for abamectin is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document). A summary of the field trial data used to support the proposed MRL can be found in Appendix I.

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRL is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Canada's Notification Authority and Enquiry Point.

The proposed MRL, to replace the MRL already established for abamectin on strawberries, is as follows.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limit for Abamectin

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm)[1]	Food Commodity
Abamectin	avermectin B_1 (a mixture of avermectins ≥ 80% avermectin B_{1a} (5-*O*-demethyl avermectin A_{1a}) and ≤ 20% avermectin B_{1b} (5-*O*-demethyl-25-de(1-methylpropyl)-25-(1-methylethyl) avermectin A_{1a}) and its delta-8,9-isomer)	0.05	Strawberries[2]

[1] ppm = parts per million
[2] This MRL replaces the current MRL for strawberries of 0.02 ppm.

MRLs established in Canada may be found using the Maximum Residue Limit Database on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage. The database allows users to search for established MRLs, regulated under the *Pest Control Products Act*, both for pesticides or for food commodities.

International Situation and Trade Implications

Table 2 compares the MRL proposed for abamectin in Canada with the corresponding Codex MRL.[1] The MRL proposed for abamectin in Canada is the same as corresponding tolerance in the United States, as listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide. A listing of established Codex MRLs is available on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website, by pesticide or commodity.

Table 2 Comparison of Canadian MRL and Codex MRL (where different)

Food Commodity	Canadian MRL (ppm)[1]	Codex MRL (ppm)
Strawberry	0.05	0.02

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRL for abamectin up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRL. Comments received will be addressed in a separate document linked to this PMRL. The established MRL will be legally in effect as of the date that it is entered into the Maximum Residue Limit Database.

[1] The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.

Appendix I

Summary of Field Trial Data Used to Support the Proposed Maximum Residue Limit

Residue data from field trials conducted in the United States were submitted to support the domestic use of Agri-Mek SC on strawberries. In addition, previously reviewed residue data from field trials conducted in/on celery, pears, apples, potatoes, caneberries (CSG 13-07A), bulb onions (CSG 3-07A) and grapes were reassessed in the framework of this petition.

Maximum Residue Limit

The recommendation for a maximum residue limit (MRL) for abamectin was based upon the submitted field trial data, and the guidance provided in the OECD MRL Calculator. Table A1 summarizes the residue data used to calculate the proposed MRL for strawberry.

Table A1 Summary of Field Trial and Processing Data Used to Support MRL

Commodity	Application Method/ Total Application Rate (g a.i./ha)[1]	Preharvest Interval (days)	Maximum Residues (ppm)	Minimum Residues (ppm)	Experimental Processing Factor
Strawberry	Foliar / 88	3	0.032	0.006	Not applicable

[1] g a.i./ha = grams of active ingredient per hectare

Following the review of all available data, the MRL as proposed in Table A1 is recommended to cover total residues of abamectin. Total residues of abamectin in this crop commodity at the proposed MRL will not pose an unacceptable risk to any segment of the population, including infants, children, adults and seniors.